THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATINOS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) 37 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened in Tamil Nadu Telecommunication Circle in the year 1986 subject to availability of exchange units and requisite demand.

(b) The names and capacity of exchanges proposed to be opend are:

1. Tuticorin Project 200 lines MAX-II

2. Cuddalore Old Town 360 lines Manual

The remaining 35 exchanges are of 25 lines capacity each for which the places are yet to be identified.

(c) The proposals under examination for opening new telephone exchanges are:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Cuddalore Sipcot | — 300 lines |
| 2. Mariamalainagar | — 300 lines |
| 3. Gummidipoondi Sipcot | — 500 lines |

**Construction of Building for Raghunathpur post office**

556. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acquired land at Raghunathpur, District Siwan Bihar, for the construction of Post Office building;

(b) whether the land is laying vacant for the last six years, if so, what are the reasons that the building has not been constructed as yet at the site;

(c) whether Government propose to construct the building at the earliest; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, there is a case pending in Siwan Court in respect of this land due to passing of road as a result of which the question of construction of building does not arise at this stage.

**Steep rice in the drug prices**

557. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the article "In Harms Way" in Illustrated Weekly dated 13th April, 1986;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the prices of Dexorange, Stametil Lynoral, Aquaviron B-12, Digiplex, Antreny] and various other medicines have gone up from 85 per cent to 614 per cent from June 1981 to September, 1985, and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for such high increase in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The formulations specifically referred to are price decontrolled formulations and manufacturers are free to fix their own prices. As regards price controlled formulations, the increases in prices are allowed based on increases in the input costs based on the recommendations of an expert body, namely, Bureau of Industrial Costs and prices.

**Formulations of ex-FERA drug companies**

558. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) names of the formulations for which ex-FERA drug companies have

been granted registration during the last three years alongwith the name of the bulk drug on which each of the formulation is based;

(b) whether the bulk drug concerned is imported or indigenous;

(c) names of the formulations which have already been marketed by these companies;

(d) what are the details of ratio-parameter of each company at present and what was the ex-factory value of production of bulk drugs and formulations separately during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) whether any of these companies have commenced production of any of bulk drug during the last three years; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) (b) and (e) Details of Industrial Approvals granted from time to time to non-FERA companies are published regularly by the India Investment Centre in their Monthly News Letter. Copies of this publication are available in the Parliament Library.

Under the existing Drug Policy, non-FERA companies are not required to produce their own bulk drugs for manufacturing formulations.

(c) My Ministry does not monitor the production/marketing of formulations by individual companies.

(d) For non-FERA companies the ratio between the value of bulk drug production and value of formulation production should be 1:10. DGTD registration for formulations have been granted only if a company fulfils the aforesaid ratio-parameters.

**Reduced production by M/s. Pfizer**

559. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Pfizer has deliberately reduced the production of an effective Anti-TB drug PAS and its Salts;

(b) if so, what is the licensed capacity of this company for the production of PAS and its Salts and what was the production of this drug of this company during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this direction;

(d) whether it is also a fact that this company is over-charging the prices of many of their products and have not implemented the fixed prices; and

(e) names of those products and what was the sales turn-over of those products during the last three years year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (c) Production of PAS in the country has been decreasing mainly because of replacement by more recent anti-TB drugs like Ethambutol.

(b) M/s. Pfizer are licensed to produce 110 tons/annum of PAS and its salts. Production of this bulk drug by the company was as under:—

| Year | Production (Tons.) |
|---|---|
| 1982-83 . . . | 12·60 |
| 1983-84 . . . | 3.67 |
| 1984-85 . . . | 8.52 |

(d) and (e) M/s. Pfizer Ltd. are marketing formulations based on Oxytetracycline and PAS and its salts at the prices allowed by the Delhi High Court through its judgment delivered on 17th December, 1984. Government have filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court against the judgment of the Delhi High Court. The Company